

Bristol, April 26th 1850
Friday.

My dear Mr. May.

Your letter of Feb. 7th 18th which
came in the box to Dublin, & was forwarded
thence by Mr. Webb, reached me on Wednesday
the 10th of this month on my return from
attending a large meeting of 1500, or 2000
people who had assembled to hear an
address of W. W. Brown. ~~That~~ In my
parcel was one also for W. W. Brown
directed to Newcastle, which I was able
to let him have the enjoyment of on the
same evening.

Gow's acknowledged the receipt of
my previous letter of Jan. 4th & 26th, so
that one I sent you by post on the 8th of Feb.
and inclosing a receipt for £2 of money
paid to Capt. Lawther for you, alone remains
unanswered. I trust the "Recovery" whether

MS. B. 1. 6 v. 14 p. 14

Miss Burke (a boy I am sorry I never
thought of inquiring) has not shared the
fate of the unfortunate M. Jane, but
has arrived safely ere this time.

Greatly am I obliged by your kind
presents of the American & Unit^d Al-
manacs, W. J. Bowditch's Hierarchy,
C. Sumner on Colored Schools, & the
Life of J. Jones. Last & not least is
the 18th Anⁿ Report of the "Mass. A. S. Socy"
which I have begun to read with great
good will. The Boston Gazette is a most
acceptable document for circulation.
The "Ariel" has really had more notice
taken of it than it deserved, but the praise
bestowed upon it was not lost upon those
who had produced the work, or aided in
its safe transmission to America.
J. Jones's Life, is rather an odd pro-
duction, not exactly to my taste. His mo-
rality is a little jesuitical; - begging his
wife to pray for, & to write a lie to deceive
his master. I offered W. W. Brown to the
book to read, but he said he doubted

if it would repay the time it would cost him. I was a little surprised at this want of curiosity, but perhaps he reads slowly, & certainly he had his hands quite full while here.

Brown was invited hither by some Quakers and lodged at my hospitable friend's Mr Edward Thomas's. I took no part in asking him to come to Bristol, nor did I invite him to be my guest: the one would have involved my being looked to for arranging public meetings &c, the other my having more company & bustle than either my daughter's health or my own would warrant our undertaking under the uncertainty of not knowing whether we should be equal to it when the time ^{came}.

However, I am not afraid of B's under-valuing my hospitality: I saw a great deal of him, was much pleased with him and was of some little service to him in securing an efficient meeting &c. for I happened to be very well while he was here. He is certainly an inferior man to

Douglass in talent, manner & achievement,
but I felt much more convinced that I
knew the man, than I ever seemed to know
F. D. I have much confidence in W. W. B.
sincerity, think him a man of good sense
& good judgment: a valuable A. S. lecturer
and thoroughly attached to ^{the} Am. A. S. Socy.
I was rather surprised at his fact in
knowing, how, when, & where, to visit our
sadly unenlightened A. S. friends, res-
pecting the true Abolition Movement
of America. I have just been writing
to Mrs Chapman so fully about W. that
it seems absurd to go over the same
ground, tho' she is in Paris & you in this.

My impression is that you have reason
to feel satisfied that W. W. B. is conducting
himself judiciously, respectfully &
beneficially to the Am. A. S. Socy. I was
much pleased with all that he told me
of his sojourn with Mrs Richardson, &
the way in which he attempted to make
that philanthropic but bigoted lady
have a correct view of things. Brown.

2nd gave so much satisfaction when he
first lectured, ^{here} which was quite an informal
meeting, that a soiree was proposed for here
in the following ~~week~~ week. On this occasion
I undertook to write some Resolutions
& prepared the 3 first which I send. Then
being asked to preside, & believing I could
do so with more certainty of making the
Meeting a telling one than others could
I readily consented, & to my mind, the
Meeting was an efficient one. Floods of
rain all day kept away some hundred
people, & rendered the affair an expensive
one to those who made arrangements, but
I do not think the usefulness of the meeting
to Brown or to the cause at all lessened by
the bad weather. My aim was to keep
attention fixed to the labours of the true
A.S. workers of Am. & if you have time
attentively to look at our proceedings, I think
you will see no reason for complaints,
tho' most of the people around me on the
platform had a sort of traditional horror
of a Society in which Garrison took a lead!!

The Bristol Mercury contains the best
Report of that Meeting, & so I have had
250 slips of the article struck off having
corrected it first. These I think I can
use in a manner to give a tone to meetings
W.W.B. may hold at other places.

Already has that meeting begun to work.
I was desirous of making a downright
public attack upon the "B. & F. A. S. Socy"
for its short-comings, and what I said
has fired John Scoble, who ~~is~~ has written
indignantly to Mr. W. Tanner, & threatened
to castigate me in the "Reporter". I almost
doubt if he will venture ^{so} to this, for this
I know he wd allow of no reply to any
thing he said, in the Reporter, I think he
will be unwilling to give publicity to
my censures. He spoke most impetu-
ously about Brown, saying he had brought
no introduction, & the "Broad Street" that
he had reason to think he had no right
to leave his wife & children &c. &c.
I have sent Geo. Thompson, Brown, &c.

Buttens & others, copies of the proceedings,
that they may be prepared to support me
if occasion offer. I am very willing to
bear the censures of the Broad Street
Committee, if I can get up an opposition
to the destructive course that society is
pursuing in the A. S. cause.

It was greatly the wish of some who
attended our public Meeting to present
an Address to the people of Mass. upon
the treatment of the colored people. I
thought there was no difficulty in the way, ^{tho} as there
did not appear to be much object in such
an Address: perhaps however any efforts
in this direction made by public Meeting,
in England may not be without its use
to you!

The address has just been
brought to me for signature as Chair-
man, & for transmission to the U. S.

I therefore now "lay" officially to rest
to your charge this document, requesting

you to present it, agreeably to the
Resolution passed, to the "New England
Anti Slavery Convention" at its "con-
cluding Meeting"

Brown suggested this disposition
of it, & inquiries were made of me if the
Convention was that of any particular
Anti Slavery, as the parties concerned
did not wish to show preference to one
for? over another. Brown replied to
these remarks by saying there was no
other Anti Slavery Convention in N. E.
& that it was attended by persons belonging
to different societies

I had prepared for the "Inquirer" a
condensed account of our meeting, and
was just forwarding it to Mr. Lator, when
in an obscure part of the Inquirer for
that day, I saw a poor account of the
meeting copied from a Bristol paper
that came out the day after the meeting

3^d/ I had found its way to And. in time
for the Inquirer published on the day
that the B. Mercury came out containing
the report I send. Under these circum-
stances I did not forward my M.S.
perhaps I may send it to you. I am very
sorry the Inquirer does not contain my
charges against the "B. & F. A. S. Socy!"

Should the Am. meeting of this last
year be held nearly at the time of the B. & F.
Unitarian Conf. in London, I think
I will for sure attend it, as I purpose going
to London on the 22^d of May to the Conf.

Besides an opportunity of sending to
Boston promised me by Mr. Webb, I have
one of sending to Paris next week by a
British friend. By him I shall for-
ward Mr. Chapman's parcel by the
Boston box which Mr. Webb committed
to my charge, & also an account of an
late meeting. I have also inquired of
Mr. C. if she ever means to remain at
Paris all the summer, as my daughter

has set her heart upon paying Paris a
visit for the sole purpose of becoming
acquainted with Mrs. Chapman, her
sister, & Mrs. Follen, & for my daughter and
and came back from Alderney when Mrs.
Follen & Miss Cabot were in Bristol.

I have no good ground for opposing this
scheme, therefore I think it probable
it may be carried into execution. Our
friends the Parkers are going to Paris
in early next month. I shall certainly
give them introductions to our American
friends there.

Since writing the above I learn from
a letter to Mrs. H. Thomas, that Mrs. Follen
has been very ill for a long time, but is
now better, & hopes to go to Switzerland,
if all the party leave Paris, our visit
thither will be given up.

Upon looking over the report of the A.S.
meeting here on the 15th which I prepared
for the Inquirer, it is not so much better than

that in the Mercury as to render it worth
while for me to perplex you with other
accounts than the printed one. Mr. Webb
will forward to you a "B. Mercury" of the
20th inst. by to-morrow's mail, and
with this you will receive a copy or two
of the Report corrected, & more suitable
for the Liberator, should you think it
desirable to have any of it inserted.

Sunday Oct. 29th.

Thos. Mr. Webb's friend does
not sail till Saturday next, it is
necessary for me to forward my des-
patches to Manchester by Wednesday
& therefore must get them ready
to day.

My time is now much taken
up in preparing distant friends for
a battle with the "B. & F. A. S. Society," and
also in enlightening the London Magistrate
and the Editor of the "Times" upon the

laws of the Am: Slave States in
reference to British (colored) seamen
visiting this port. For particulars
of this matter, which not improbably
is at this moment undergoing a second
consideration at the Home Police
Office London, I refer you to my
letter to Miss A. W. Weston.

I am my dear Mr. May,

Yours very sincerely,

J. B. Estlin

I have heard nothing from Mr. Joshua
Coffin -

Pray open the "Address" & use it
as you think best.

I let Mr. Lator have your last letters to
me & Mr. Webb, & some one in W.S. from
Mr. Garrison to some friend who censured
his conduct of the Liberator. His Mr. Lator
answer, I ~~he~~ will inclose that you see
see his feelings. I think you saw his
article upon Carlyle's Anti Negro paper.

4/ My daughter thinks it fair to ask him
if W. L. G. "hurley God's thunder bolts"
is very different from what Mr. L. himself
did when he described Mr. Carlyle's
paper as "a true work of the Devil".
On his own principles he ought to make
allowance for Mr. Carlyle's seeing the
matter from his ~~own~~ "standpoint," -
(according to the
~~seeing it is~~ a fashionable slang here)

My daughter is very desirous of
your leaving, (I have made one for you)
a copy of a letter from Mrs. Massie,
wife of a Dr. Massie of London, who
applied to me once for help for the N. York
Vigilance Com. respecting which I once
made inquiry of you. She seems to
be of the right sort in A. S. matters, & I
have sent her copies of the report of our
last A. S. meeting that she may shut
me in any warfare with Scoble

It is long since I heard from her, and as
she is known to be very orthodox, and as
in my last letter to her did not conceal
that my views were Unitⁿ my daughter
portends the withdrawal of the
lady's countenance. But I have
more faith in Antislavery sympathy